



## KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**House Bill 2745 – Funding for Remedial Courses; Qualified Admissions**  
**Andy Tompkins, President and CEO**  
**February 29, 2012**

Chairman Rhoades and members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today on House Bill 2745. The Board of Regents has not had an opportunity to review this bill and develop a position on it. Therefore, I am here today to provide some information for you that will hopefully assist you in your deliberations.

Prior to enactment of qualified admission over 10 years ago, any citizen who graduated from high school could attend our public universities. There was a great deal of debate about whether the state should limit who could attend the universities. It was my understanding that the 10% window was a part of the final agreement to appease the concerns of access expressed throughout the state. Data collected annually has indicated that the three research universities admit fewer than 4% of their freshman class through the exception window and the three regional universities admit from 6-10% through the exception window. In academic year 2010-11, 15,810 Kansas resident students were admitted as freshmen in our universities, and 711 or 4.5% of those were admitted through the exception window. If this bill applied to the university system, then there would be no impact in reducing the exception window to 5%. However, if this applies to each university separately, then 111 students at the three regional universities would not have been admitted.

In regards to resident transfer students, both regional and research universities have admitted 5% or fewer. For non-resident transfers, the research universities have admitted fewer than 2%, and the regional universities have admitted fewer than 8%. Of the 7,110 Kansas resident transfer students admitted in 2010-11, 159 or 2.2% were admitted through the exception window. Of the 2,542 non-resident transfer students admitted, 93 or 3.7% were admitted through the exception window. If this bill applies to the university system, then the 5% cap would have no impact. If this bill applies to each university, it will have no impact on resident transfers and some impact, approximately 20 students, on non-resident transfers at the regional universities.

Remedial courses represent approximately one percent of all classes taught at the university and approximately 14.5% of the entering freshman class take a remedial class with the vast majority being in mathematics. In regard to the financial impact of not allowing state general funds to be used for remedial classes, universities may use state general fund or other funds for remedial courses. We have estimated that the cost incurred by the universities for remedial classes was approximately \$1.5 million. I hope this has provided some context for your discussion, and I am happy to respond to your questions.

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